

# Friday Night Fax

A Periodic Publication for Indiana AmeriCorps Programs and Community Service Partners

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Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism

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ICCSV and Statewide Service Partners to Convene Event to Celebrate Volunteerism  
One of the goals of the three-year *Unified State Plan (USP)* is to *increase more opportunities for people to serve in their local communities*. Through a partnership with the Indiana Association of Volunteer Centers (IAVC) and the Indiana Association of United Ways (IAUW), the ICCSV is working to make this possible by hosting an event at the State House during the legislative session. This event- **Celebrate Volunteerism** - will be held on **Wednesday, January 15, 2003** in the **State House Rotunda** in **Indianapolis** and will **begin at 8:30 a.m.** with a networking breakfast. This event will include networking opportunities, a legislative breakfast, and a conference in the Government Center that includes a panel discussion on current topics facing volunteers. One of the goals for this event is to increase awareness about volunteerism and the efforts of these three organizations. Volunteer Centers should contact their legislator and encourage them to attend and join us for breakfast. The ceremony will feature Indiana First Lady Judy O'Bannon as the keynote speaker. For more information, visit our website at [www.IN.gov/iccsv](http://www.IN.gov/iccsv). If you or your organization are interested in attending, please telephone the ICCSV toll free at (888) 335-9490, or e-mail at [iccsv@state.in.us](mailto:iccsv@state.in.us).

## Peace Learning Center and the ICCSV to Celebrate MLK Day

Remember the Man, Celebrate the Cause, Act for Change is the theme of the 2003 MLK Day Celebration sponsored by the Peace Learning Center in partnership with the Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism (ICCSV) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Art and Educational Workshops will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for up to 200 youth in the Indianapolis-Marion County area (To register, go to [www.peacelearningcenter.org/register/mlk.asp](http://www.peacelearningcenter.org/register/mlk.asp)). The workshops will feature poetry, dance, drumming, visual arts, and Kingian nonviolence. Beginning at 4:00 p.m., a public celebration honoring Dr. King's life will take place with live music, performances, guest speakers, and community awards.

## New Opportunity for Service Leader in Indiana

Tom Haskett, who has served as the Indiana State Director for the Corporation for National and Community Service, will be fulfilling the demands of an exciting new role for the entire North Central Cluster. Tom will be serving as the Senior Program Specialist for the cluster providing the resource of his extensive knowledge of national and community service, aging programs and community development to further the Corporation's agenda in the cluster. Tom has been committed to service since he first began serving our country in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1953. He has since served in public service beginning with the Office of Equal Opportunity in 1967 and then ACTION in 1971 - becoming State Director in 1974 (as the CNCS State Director in 1994). Tom has been a great leader in our state and we are excited for him as he embarks on this new opportunity. We look forward to the continued wealth of experience and knowledge that he brings forth in his service to Indiana and communities throughout the North Central Cluster. Thank you Tom, for all that you do!

## Administrative Assistant Position Filled by Sarah Damon

On January 31st, our new Administrative Assistant, Sarah Damon, will be joining the ICCSV team. Sarah will be responsible for management of the ICCSV office, website development, the *Friday Night Fax* and the management of the Commission Board activities. She comes to us from the School to Work program at the Department of Workforce Development. We look forward to all that she will bring to the ICCSV team. Sarah's direct line will be 317-232-2503.

## Strengthening National Service in Indiana - 2003 Winter Retreat

It is that time of year again! The ICCSV team is preparing to host the AmeriCorps members, VISTAs, RSVPs, Senior Companions, Foster Grandparents, and Promise Fellows from across the state to motivate and rejuvenate participants' energies. The "Strengthening National Service in Indiana" Retreat will be held in Bloomington, IN on February 5-6, 2003. We are very excited about this year's event and expect a wonderful turn-out on behalf of the programs! Mark your calendars and don't miss this great opportunity to network with national service participants from across the state!

The Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism challenges the people of Indiana to strengthen their communities through service and volunteerism. We identify and mobilize resources, promote an ethic of service, and develop in communities the capacity to solve problems and improve the quality of life for all individuals and families.

### 2003 Indiana Service Learning Conference

The annual Indiana Service-Learning Conference will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on February 20, 2003. Conference information and registration form can be found on the web at [www.serve.indiana.edu](http://www.serve.indiana.edu). AmeriCorps members may attend the event at the student rate! For more information call 812-856-0528 or e-mail [clpadmin@indiana.edu](mailto:clpadmin@indiana.edu).

### National Service Program Shares Story of International Proportions

Peace Camp Team Leader Noah Merrill is putting his international experience into action through his service with AmeriCorps. Following his second year with Peace Learning Center, Noah completed a field research project in Chiapas, Mexico by living in an indigenous Mayan village while participating in human rights observation, building relationships across divides of culture and economics. This experience was part of his practicum to complete work on a new degree he helped create at Indiana University - Cross Cultural Conflict Resolution. Noah hopes to build use the experiences gained through AmeriCorps to attend law school and work for an international non-profit human rights and justice organization.

### Reflection from a National Service Participant/Volunteer

"I think one of the most important things to have occurred this month is my personal attraction to the program itself. I have seen so many positive results from my students, that it is quite evident to me that the program really does work, and that I am making a real difference in these children's educational lives. I see the progress not only in their abilities to read orally, but in the degree of interest in the stories and in learning about the things described in the stories, which I am able to explain about. These things keep me interested in the kid's progress and instill a sense of pride that is akin to the pride the kids experience in their accomplishments with me. I heard a boy call out to my student Cody the other day, "Hey Cody! Your friend is here!" The night before last I heard a little girl's voice call out from across the gymnasium at Test Jr. High, (where I was attending a 7th grade band performance), "Look! There's Jesstin's reading coach!" These sort of things make me smile and reinforce the idea that I am doing this thing right." – *No Name Provided, Reading Coach, Indiana Reading Corps*

### Hats Off to Volunteers!

Indiana 2016 salutes Hoosiers who volunteer to serve food at a homeless shelter or to serve on a nonprofit board. Thanks to those who volunteer to tutor, to coach a soccer team, to work in a food pantry, to sit with someone lonely or to build homes for others. Isn't it wonderful that here in America there are so many people who want to volunteer, and so many worthy causes, that online search engines have been developed to make matches made in "volunteer heaven"? (You've probably already checked out these resources on the ICCSV website.) Sometimes we may begin to take for granted the spirit of volunteerism and service that surrounds us in this country. Interestingly, though, volunteerism, as we know it, is not a universal concept. In some cultures, the entire idea is foreign. Volunteerism actually seems to be closely linked to freedom. Translators who accompanied First Lady Judy O'Bannon to Russia a couple of years ago explained that to people who came out of Communism, "to volunteer" actually conveys the meaning "to be drafted." In Russia today, freedom has inspired a few people to address needs of others through non-governmental organizations, but it is indeed a fledgling effort. As we approach the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday with "A Day On, Not a Day Off," we recognize all the volunteers who make our communities better places for everyone.

### Reasonable Accommodations Tip

The U.S. Department of Labor maintains a national website, that provides much information to organizations on how to accommodate individuals with disabilities. One important factor to remember when providing reasonable accommodations is to always include the individual (whether the person is an employee, volunteer or national service participant) in the process. For more information, please visit <http://www.jan.wvu.edu/links/>. This website also provides information on disability legislation.

### Citizen Corps

The State of Indiana has been allocated \$80,775.00 for Citizen Corps Council activities by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Of this amount, 75% or \$60,586.25 will be granted to local governments for the purpose of bringing together the appropriate leadership in a community to focus on engaging citizens in homeland security and for promoting community preparedness and family safety. Applications will be available soon! Please stay tuned for more information.

Positive and encouraging reflection articles from national service participants and initiatives can be sent to the ICCSV for possible inclusion in a future issue. AmeriCorps Programs and service partners may contribute information on upcoming events to be included in the publication by contacting the ICCSV by electronic mail at [iccsv@state.in.us](mailto:iccsv@state.in.us).

## Friday Night Fax

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Indiana Achievement Awards

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Indiana Achievement Awards are now accepting application. The categories are innovation, sustainability and impact. Winners will receive a \$10,000 unrestricted cash prize. To download an application, go to [www.sycamorefoundation.org](http://www.sycamorefoundation.org) or contact Amandula Henry at 317-208-4845. Application deadline is February 3. Don't miss your chance to recognize your nonprofit for the great work it is doing in our community!

Become A Lead Agency – 15<sup>th</sup> Annual National Youth Service Day, April 11-13, 2003  
Youth Service America (YSA) is currently recruiting 50 organizations from across the country to serve as Lead Agencies (LAs) for National Youth Service Day 2003. The LAs serve as local liaisons for National Youth Service Day, promote projects and celebrations, coordinate volunteer recruitment, secure media coverage, etc. *LAs receive a **\$2,000 planning grant** and will organize a coalition to provide quality service and service-learning opportunities, and NYSD celebrations for young people.* By serving as an LA for your city, region, or state, you will be able to provide and connect youth in your area with quality service opportunities. For additional information, FAQ's, and proposal guidelines, please visit: [http://www.ysa.org/nysd/nysd\\_involvement\\_parent.cfm](http://www.ysa.org/nysd/nysd_involvement_parent.cfm) or contact Katherine Watier, Field Manager for National Youth Service Day, at [kwatier@ysa.org](mailto:kwatier@ysa.org) or 202-296-2992 Ext. 28. Although the application deadline is rolling, selections began in mid-November.

## Tip of the Month

The Center for Excellence in Non-Profits promotes excellence in non-profit organizational performance. Visit their website at [www.cen.org](http://www.cen.org).

## Keep in Touch!

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## Important Deadlines and Upcoming Events

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|--|----------------------|
| Celebrate Volunteerism Conference                            | January 15, 2003     |
| Deadline for AmeriCorps Applications (competitive & formula) | January 17, 2003     |
| Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service                       | January 20, 2003     |
| 2003 Winter Retreat  | February 5 – 6, 2003 |
| ICCSV Board of Commissioners Meeting                         | February 13, 2003    |
| Indiana Service-Learning Conference                          | February 20, 2003    |

**Available Now!** Indiana Volunteers License Plates (for front of vehicle) are available for purchase. For more information, please contact Brandy Wood at [bwood@dwd.state.in.us](mailto:bwood@dwd.state.in.us).